Evidence and Evaluation

Social programs that work have the potential to change lives. But policy decisions and program investments are often made without knowing if they will truly drive better outcomes for kids, families, and communities. While we have made remarkable progress in developing evidence in social policy, we need to better understand what policies and programs work best across diverse communities, and more effectively translate our findings into practical, impactful policymaking.

Our team is driven by two goals: to use what we already know from research to make better policy decisions and to build more knowledge to inform future decisions. We are dedicated to using rigorous, causal research to identify and evaluate promising programs and policies.

How We Work

Arnold Ventures (AV) focuses its strategies, grants collaborations, and resources in four pillars to identify root causes of problems and implement sustainable, scalable solutions.

- **Research**
- **Policy Development**
- **Advocacy**
- **Implementation**

AV works to build the body of rigorous research about what works and advance the use of evidence in policymaking.

**STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION FOR EVIDENCE**
Building a robust infrastructure that supports evidence-based policymaking is crucial for achieving sustainable change. It not only improves the incentives for using data and research in policymaking, but also enhances the availability, relevance, and practical application of evidence in creating policies driven by measurable outcomes.

**BOLSTERING THE EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY ECO-SYSTEM**
There is a significant gap between what scientific research recommends and what policymakers actually can do. AV provides support for understanding the real-world demands of policymakers, demonstrating the real-time value of data, and translating evidence to address timely challenges.

**BUILDING EVIDENCE FOR PROMISING PROGRAMS**
By increasing the body of evidence about ‘what works’ – and identifying programs that do not demonstrate success – we create opportunities for government to better target limited resources for better outcomes.

**ACCELERATING THE ABILITY TO SCALE SOLUTIONS**
Very few evidence-based programs reach widespread adoption, and even fewer receive public support. We are building a better understanding of policy levers and ultimately developing best practices for scaling proven programs.